

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. _____

Designating September 2018 as “National Workforce Development Month”
and recognizing the necessity of investing in workforce development to
support workers and to help employers succeed in a global economy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BONAMICI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating September 2018 as “National Workforce Development Month” and recognizing the necessity of investing in workforce development to support workers and to help employers succeed in a global economy.

Whereas programs that provide work experience and support services that correspond with classroom instruction, known as “workforce development,” assist individuals with barriers to employment and help them succeed in the labor market, and also provide employers in the United States with the skilled workers needed to thrive in a global economy;

Whereas collaboration among Governors, local governments, State and local education leaders, workforce, and human services agencies, community colleges, local businesses, employment service providers, community-based organizations, and workforce development boards provides for long-term, sustainable, and successful workforce development across traditional sectors and emerging industries;

Whereas middle-skill jobs, those that require more than a high school diploma but not a four-year degree, comprise 53 percent of the labor market, but only 43 percent of workers in the United States are trained at that level, creating a discrepancy that may limit growth in changing industries such as health care, manufacturing, and information technology;

Whereas in 2014, Congress reauthorized the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) with overwhelming bipartisan support in recognition of the need to strengthen the focus of the United States on the skills necessary to fill jobs in local and regional industries;

Whereas the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) supports employment, training, and support services for individuals with barriers to employment, including—

- (1) individuals who are low-income;
- (2) individuals who are out of work;
- (3) individuals with disabilities;
- (4) individuals who are older;
- (5) individuals who are facing homelessness;
- (6) youth who have aged out of the foster care system;

(7) individuals who are English language learners, individuals who have low levels of literacy, and individuals facing substantial cultural barriers; and

(8) individuals who were formerly incarcerated;

Whereas the more than 550 workforce development boards and 2,500 American Job Centers are a driving force behind growing regional economies because they provide training, resources, and assistance to workers who aim to compete in the 21st century economy;

Whereas ongoing State and local implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) provides unprecedented opportunities to develop the skills of workers in the United States through access to effective workforce education and training, including the development and delivery of proven strategies such as sector partnerships, career pathways, integrated education and training, work-based learning models, and paid internships;

Whereas in 2016, programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)—

(1) served more than 7,000,000 young people and adults;

(2) exceeded employment targets across all programs; and

(3) helped more than 1,300,000 individuals, including English language learners, gain skills and credentials to help the individuals succeed in the labor market;

Whereas State programs established under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.)—

(1) ensured that more than 5,400,000 unemployed workers, including more than 800,000 veterans, had ac-

cess to career services through American Job Centers in 2016; and

(2) support state efforts to offer intensive reemployment services;

Whereas workforce development programs will play a critical role in addressing the expected 2,000,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs over the next decade;

Whereas community colleges and other workforce development training providers across the United States are well-situated—

(1) to train the next generation of workers in the United States; and

(2) to address the educational challenges created by emerging industries and technological advancements;

Whereas participation in a career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) program decreases the risk of students dropping out of high school, and all 50 States and the District of Columbia report higher graduation rates for CTE students, as compared with other students;

Whereas community and technical colleges operate as open access institutions serving millions of students annually at a comparatively low cost;

Whereas the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) supports the development and implementation of high-quality CTE programs that—

(1) combine rigorous academic content with occupational skills; and

(2) served approximately 11,000,000 high school and college students from 2016 to 2017;

Whereas there are more than 500,000 registered apprentices in the United States, and there is growing and bipartisan support for expanding earn-and-learn strategies to help current and future workers gain skills and work experience;

Whereas the federally supported workforce system and partner programs—

(1) have helped rebuild the economy of the United States and provide increased economic opportunities;

(2) provide a pathway into jobs that support families while helping businesses in the United States find the skilled workforce needed to compete in the global economy; and

(3) support individuals who have been displaced by outsourcing and provide opportunities for workers to learn new skills to access better paying jobs; and

Whereas workforce development is crucial to sustaining economic security for workers in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives —

2 (1) celebrates “National Workforce Develop-
3 ment Month” and recognizes that workforce develop-
4 ment programs assist individuals (particularly indi-
5 viduals with barriers to employment) access the edu-
6 cation, training, credentials, and support services
7 such individuals need to secure good paying jobs,
8 and allows employers to align training with the skills
9 such employers need;

1 (2) affirms that maintaining funding and au-
2 thorization for the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
3 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is necessary for
4 states to fully carry out congressional reforms;

5 (3) recognizes the importance of the recent re-
6 authorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
7 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301
8 et seq.), and supports further Federal initiatives to
9 promote workforce development; and

10 (4) commits to increasing investment of Federal
11 funds to better address the employment and skills
12 needs of workers and employers.